

# California Field Crop Review



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American Pima cotton production is forecast at 360 thousand bales, 18 percent below last year's crop. The 184 thousand acres for harvest remained the same as last year.

Upland cotton production in the **U.S.** is forecast at 13.1 million bales, down 5 percent from the August forecast and 28 percent below 1997. Yields are expected to be 607 pounds per acre, 66 pounds below last year. Harvested acreage is down 20 percent. American Pima cotton production is forecast at 462 thousand bales, down 16 percent from 1997. The yield per acre is expected to be 900 pounds, down 11 pounds from the August forecast, and 156 pounds below last year.

## CROP PRODUCTION

**COTTON:** Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 1.35 million bales, 38 percent below last year. Harvested acreage is expected to total 650 thousand acres, 26 percent below last year. The yield is forecast at 997 pounds per acre, down 17 percent from 1997.

## FIELD CROP ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION FOR CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES, 1997-98

Crop	Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production		
	1997	Forecast 1998	Unit	1997	Forecast 1998	Unit	1997	Forecast 1998
	-- 1,000 Acres --						-- Thousands --	
CALIFORNIA								
Wheat, Winter <u>a/</u>	400.0	370.0	Tons	2.25	1.95	Tons	900.0	721.5
Wheat, Durum <u>a/</u>	144.0	175.0	Tons	2.85	3.15	Tons	410.4	551.3
Oats <u>a/</u>	35.0	30.0	Tons	1.12	1.20	Tons	39.2	36.0
Barley <u>a/</u>	180.0	140.0	Tons	1.32	1.44	Tons	237.6	201.6
Corn for Grain	260.0	255.0	Tons	4.76	4.48	Tons	1,237.6	1,142.4
Rice, All	510.0	478.0	Cwt.	83.00	78.00	Cwt.	42,341.0	37,284.0
Long <u>a/</u>	9.0	9.0	Cwt.	77.00	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	693.0	<u>b/</u>
Medium <u>a/</u>	485.0	450.0	Cwt.	83.20	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	40,352.0	<u>b/</u>
Short <u>a/</u>	16.0	19.0	Cwt.	81.00	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	1,296.0	<u>b/</u>
Cotton, Upland <u>c/</u>	875.0	650.0	Lbs.	1,202.00	997.00	Bales	2,191.0	1,350.0
Cotton, American-Pima <u>c/</u>	184.0	184.0	Lbs.	1,141.00	939.00	Bales	437.2	360.0
Sugar Beets	99.0	100.0	Tons	30.00	29.00	Tons	2,970.0	2,900.0
Beans, Dry Edible <u>a/</u>	132.0	105.0	Cwt.	22.50	21.00	Cwt.	2,970.0	2,200.0
Hay, All <u>a/</u>	1,500.0	1,540.0	Tons	5.74	5.50	Tons	8,616.0	8,472.0
Alfalfa Hay <u>a/</u>	980.0	1,040.0	Tons	7.20	6.80	Tons	7,056.0	7,072.0
Other Hay <u>a/</u>	520.0	500.0	Tons	3.00	2.80	Tons	1,560.0	1,400.0
UNITED STATES								
Wheat, Winter <u>a/</u>	41,813.0	40,757.0	Tons	1.35	1.41	Tons	56,478.3	57,430.8
Wheat, Durum	3,107.0	3,583.0	Tons	0.83	1.10	Tons	2,585.8	3,950.8
Oats <u>a/</u>	2,911.0	2,936.0	Tons	0.97	0.97	Tons	2,817.7	2,835.4
Barley	6,425.0	6,078.0	Tons	1.40	1.47	Tons	8,987.5	8,937.1
Corn for Grain	73,720.0	73,789.0	Tons	3.56	3.70	Tons	262,236.1	272,662.6
Rice, All	3,034.0	3,187.0	Cwt.	58.96	56.85	Cwt.	178,896.0	181,170.0
Long <u>d/</u>	2,261.0	2,480.0	Cwt.	53.80	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	121,647.0	132,934.0
Medium <u>d/</u>	755.0	685.0	Cwt.	73.95	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	55,833.0	46,597.0
Short <u>d/</u>	18.0	22.0	Cwt.	78.67	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	1,416.0	1,639.0
Cotton, Upland <u>c/</u>	13,021.0	10,358.0	Lbs.	673.00	607.00	Bales	18,245.0	13,100.6
Cotton, American-Pima <u>c/</u>	249.0	246.5	Lbs.	1,056.00	900.00	Bales	548.0	462.0
Sugar Beets	1,428.3	1,455.5	Tons	20.90	21.40	Tons	29,886.0	31,134.0
Beans, Dry Edible <u>a/</u>	1,720.2	1,903.9	Cwt.	16.95	15.70	Cwt.	29,156.0	29,886.0
Hay, All <u>a/</u>	60,815.0	59,819.0	Tons	2.50	2.48	Tons	152,120.0	148,287.0
Alfalfa Hay <u>a/</u>	23,673.0	23,437.0	Tons	3.35	3.43	Tons	79,242.0	80,290.0
Other Hay <u>a/</u>	37,142.0	36,382.0	Tons	1.96	1.87	Tons	72,878.0	67,997.0

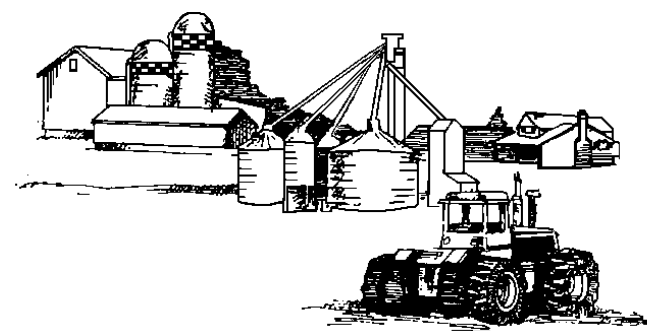
a/ Estimate for current year carried forward from earlier forecast. b/ To be released January 1999. c/ Cotton yield in pounds; production in 480-pound net weight bales. d/ Rice class production forecasts for 1998 are based on five-year average of class percentages.

**CORN:** California's 1998 corn for grain production is forecast at 1.14 million tons, 8 percent below last year. The yield forecast, at 4.48 tons per acre, is down 6 percent from last year, and harvested acreage is down 2 percent.

**Nationally,** corn for grain production is forecast at 273 million tons, up 4 percent from the 1997 crop. The average yield is forecast at 3.70 tons per acre.

**SUGAR BEETS:** California sugar beet production is forecast at 2.90 million tons, down 2 percent from the 1997 crop. Acreage for harvest, at 100 thousand, is up 1 percent, while yields are expected to be down 3 percent from last year.

**U.S.** sugar beet production is forecast at 31.1 million tons, up 4 percent from the 1997 crop. The increase is due to a 2 percent increase in harvested acreage, with yields expected to be up 2 percent from last year.



**RICE:** California's 1998 rice crop forecast, at 37.3 million cwt., is 12 percent below 1997. The 478 thousand acres for harvest are 6 percent below last year. The yield is forecast at 7,800 pounds per acre, down 6 percent from last year.

The 1998 **U.S.** rice production is forecast at 181 million cwt., 1 percent above 1997. The larger 1997 crop is the result of a 5 percent increase in harvested acreage, which was partially offset by a 4 percent decrease in expected yields.

## OFF FARM RICE STOCKS

Stocks of milled rice stored in California mills and warehouses on August 1, 1998 totaled 756 thousand cwt., up 8 percent from the 701 thousand cwt. stored a year earlier. Whole kernels accounted for 71 percent of the total milled rice in storage. Nationally, milled rice stocks in all positions on August 1 totaled 4.80 million cwt., 26 percent above the comparable figure for a year ago.

Rough rice stocks in mills and off-farm warehouses in California on August 1, 1998 totaled 9.4 million cwt. This was 20 percent above the 7.86 million cwt. stocks on hand a year earlier. Warehouses accounted for 8.6 million cwt., with the remainder in mill storage. Nationally, rough rice stocks in all positions on August 1, 1998 totaled 23.4 million cwt., up 7 percent from the total on August 1, 1997.

### CALIFORNIA OFF-FARM ROUGH RICE STOCKS

Month	Season		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
	-- 1,000 Cwt. --		
October 1 <u>a/</u>	4,927	4,647	4,515
December 1	31,179	35,031	34,664
March 1	23,445	20,377	23,670
August 1	10,261	7,776	9,299

a/ Small amount of on-farm stocks included in off-farm total. May include some carryover from previous season.

### ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

Type of Rice	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	Aug. 1, 1997	Aug. 1, 1998	Aug. 1, 1997	Aug. 1, 1998
	-- 1,000 Cwt. --			
<b>ROUGH RICE TOTAL</b>	7,855	9,402	21,793	20,991
Long Grain	<u>a/</u>	<u>a/</u>	10,839	9,863
Medium Grain	7,551	8,755	10,723	10,640
Short Grain	<u>a/</u>	<u>a/</u>	231	488
<b>MILLED RICE TOTAL</b>	701	756	3,819	4,795
<b>Whole Kernels Total</b>	527	540	3,134	4,056
Long Grain	15	34	2,312	3,228
Medium Grain	478	461	788	728
Short Grain	34	45	34	100
<b>Broken Kernels Total</b>	174	216	685	739
Second Heads <u>b/</u>	158	201	467	524
Screenings	---	---	13	33
Brewers	16	15	205	182

a/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual reports.

b/ California figure includes screenings.

# **PRICES RECEIVED BY CALIFORNIA FARMERS -AUGUST 1998**

Prices received by California farmers at mid-August were above July for dry edible beans and all potatoes. Wheat, summer potatoes, and all types of hay were below the previous month's level. The mid-August prices for barley and Upland cotton lint were not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. Prices were above a year earlier for all potatoes, but were below August 1997 for wheat, dry edible beans, summer potatoes, and all types of hay.

## **U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DROPS ONE POINT**

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in August was 101 based on 1990-92=100, down one point (1.0 percent) from July. Since July, price decreases for corn, tomatoes, soybeans, and wheat offset price increases for milk, broilers, grapes, and eggs. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level; however, these changes were essentially offsetting in August.

Compared with August 1997, the All Farm Products Index was seven points (6.5 percent) lower. Price decreases from August 1997 for hogs, wheat, cattle, and corn more than offset price increases for milk, broilers, grapes, and peaches.

The August All Crops Index was 103, down 3.7 percent from July and 11 percent below August 1997. From July, price decreases for vegetables, feed grains and hay, oilseeds, and food grains more than offset price increases for fruit and nuts.

The August Food Grains Index, at 87, was down 2.2 percent from the previous month and 29 percent below August 1997. The index has not been this low since August 1991. The August all wheat price, at \$4.10 per cwt., was down 17 cents from July.

The August Feed Grains and Hay Index was 92, down 8.9 percent from last month and 20 percent below August 1997. The corn price, at \$3.38 per cwt., was down 55 cents from July and \$1.08 below the August 1997 price. This is the lowest monthly price for corn since April 1988. The all hay price, at \$88.50 per ton, was down 10 cents from July.

## **AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS a/**

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		August 1997	July 1998	Aug. 15, 1998	August 1997	July 1998	Aug. 15, 1998
----- Dollars -----							
Corn <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.46	3.93	3.38
Wheat <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	7.98	4.87	4.65	5.93	4.27	4.10
Oats <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.91	3.72	3.53
Barley <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	8.02	<u>c/</u>	<u>c/</u>	4.90	4.19	4.54
Sorghum Grain <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.09	3.80	3.43
Rice <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	9.94	9.57	9.32
Dry Edible Beans <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	39.10	30.40	31.20	20.40	21.40	21.10
All Potatoes <u>d/</u>	Cwt.	10.10	9.80	11.70	6.34	5.93	5.08
Winter	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	9.80	10.10	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	12.50	14.30	11.70	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	4.55	5.95	---	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled <u>b/</u>	Ton	120.00	99.00	95.00	99.00	88.60	88.50
Alfalfa Hay, Baled <u>b/</u>	Ton	121.00	99.00	95.00	105.00	93.40	90.50
Other Hay, Baled <u>b/</u>	Ton	97.00	95.00	93.00	75.40	72.70	79.00
Upland Cotton Lint <u>b/</u>	Lb.	0.743	<u>c/</u>	<u>c/</u>	0.671	0.665	0.663
Cottonseed	Ton	---	---	---	112.00	---	113.00

## **INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES**

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	Aug. 1997	July 1998	Aug. 1998	Aug. 1997	July 1998	Aug. 1998
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	683	645 <u>e/</u>	642	108	102	101
All Crops	574	529 <u>e/</u>	510	116	107	103
Food Grains	388	283 <u>e/</u>	278	122	89	87
Feed Grains and Hay	409	362 <u>e/</u>	328	115	101 <u>e/</u>	92
Cotton	567	562 <u>e/</u>	560	111	110 <u>e/</u>	109
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	550	526 <u>e/</u>	459	109	104 <u>e/</u>	91
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates <u>f/</u>	1,556	1528 <u>e/</u>	1,527	117	115	115
Parity Ratio <u>g/</u>	44	42	42	92	89	88

a/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole. b/ Previous month revised to monthly average. c/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. d/ Monthly average. e/ Revised. f/ All production indexes as of 15th of month. g/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

# SUMMER POTATO PRODUCTION

California's 1998 summer potato production is expected to be 2.26 million cwt., up 2 percent from last year's production. Acreage for harvest is up by 6 percent and yields are expected to average 370.0 cwt. per acre, 3 percent above 1997. The summer potato crop matured later than normal, due to cold, wet spring weather. Tuber size is slightly smaller than average. Minor blight problems were reported.

Yields are above last year in the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula, Texas, and Colorado. Colorado and Texas yields are record highs, and California growers tied a record high. Colorado fields suffered some hail damage in Weld County. Yields are up from last year in Delaware, southern New Jersey, and Virginia, but the crop is short of yields produced two and three years ago. Most areas got off to a late start and were then hit by hot, dry weather during the summer.

The U.S. September forecast of 1998 summer potato production is 19.5 million cwt., 9 percent above a year ago and 1 percent above the July 1 forecast. Harvest area is estimated at 70,800 acres, 7 percent above last year, but 3 percent below two years ago. The average yield of 276 is 5 cwt. above last year and 15 cwt. above 1996.

Harvest is finished in most states. Sizes are down and yields are lower than last year in the Midwest, New Jersey, New Mexico, and eastern Gulf region. Some acres were abandoned in New Mexico, Missouri, and Virginia.

## SUMMER POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 1/

State	Harvested Acres		Yield		Production		
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
	- 1,000 Acres -		--- Cwt. ---		--- 1,000 Cwt. ---		
Alabama	5.9	5.5	150	130	1,005	885	715
California	5.9	6.1	360	370	2,088	2,124	2,257
Colorado	7.6	8.2	340	350	3,381	2,584	2,870
Delaware	4.2	4.7	230	240	1,248	966	1,128
Illinois	4.6	5.6	325	290	1,650	1,495	1,624
Iowa 2/	1.3	1.1	210	190	315	273	209
Maryland 2/	3.4	4.6	280	260	559	952	1,196
Missouri	5.8	8.5	255	225	1,633	1,479	1,913
Nebraska	4.3	4.4	390	365	1,485	1,677	1,606
New Jersey	2.2	2.2	270	230	663	594	506
New Mexico	4.3	3.9	320	280	1,404	1,376	1,092
North Carolina 2/	1.2	1.1	100	95	108	120	105
Texas	7.7	7.4	245	380	2,280	1,887	2,812
Virginia	7.5	7.5	195	200	1,688	1,463	1,500
TOTAL	65.9	70.8	271	276	19,507	17,875	19,533

1/ Revised 1997 figures. 2/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.